

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE  
DATE OF DEPOSIT Jan 7, 2005  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. 92421342412US  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"  
ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450.  
MAILED BY Loe Schaefer  
DATE Jan 7, 2005

10/520925  
DT15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 JAN 2005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicants:	D. Olsen, et al.	
Int. Appln. No:	PCT/US03/22556	
Int. Filing Date:	18 July 2003	
US Appln. No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.: 21194P
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith	
For:	THIONUCLEOSIDE DERIVATIVES AS INHIBITORS OF RNA-DEPENDENT RNA VIRAL POLYMERASE	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected on page 2 of this response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this response.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this response.